

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

/078 W

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P R 050845Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8724

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS HELSINKI 1213

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJECT: KEKKONEN CALLS EARLY ELECTIONS

REF: A)HELSINKI 1165; B) HELSINKI 1175

BEGIN SUMMARY: FINLAND WILL HOLD PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
SEPTEMBER 21 AND 22 THIS YEAR. COALITION GOVERNMENT RESIGNS
BUT CONTINUES IN CARETAKER CAPACITY UNTIL PRESIDENT KEKKONEN
APPINTS (IN ABOUT TEN DAYS) "NON-POLITICAL" GOVERNMENT TO
SERVE UNTIL POST-ELECTION CABINET FORMED. END SUMMARY.

1. AT JUNE 4 COUNCIL OF STATE SESSION PRESIDENT KEKKONEN
DECLARED SEPTEMBER 21-22, Q1975 AS DATE FOR ELECTIONS TO REPLACE
PRESENT FINNISH PARLIAMENT ELECTED IN JANUARY 1972. IN STAGED
SCENARIO, PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA'S COALITION
GOVERNMENT THEN "RESIGNED." KEKKONEN ACCEPTED GOVERN-
MENT'S RESIGNATION, BUT AT SAME TIME ASKED SORSA CABINET
TO CONTINUE IN CARETAKER CAPACITY UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT
APPOINTED. IT IS UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT MINISTERS
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WILL BE RELIEVED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND FREED

FOR COMING CAMPAIGN MORE OR LESS SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH ACTUAL DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT. THIS IS EXPECTED WITHIN COMING TWO WEEKS, BY WHICH TIME PARLIAMENT SHOULD HAVE ACTED ON AT LEAST MOST OF PENDING LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS PRESIDENT CONSIDERS VITAL (SEE REFTELS).

2. WHEN SORSA GOVERNMENT FINALLY DOES DEPART PRESENT EXPECTATION IS THAT IT WILL BE REPLACED BY EITHER "EXPERT" OR "PRESIDENTIAL" GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL POST-ELECTION CABINET FORMED. LEADING CANDIDATES TO HEAD "EXPERT" GOVERNMENT ARE HELSINKI MAYOR TEUVO AURA, PRESENT ("NON-POLITICAL") INTERIOR MINISTER HEIKKI TUOMINEN, OR BANK OF FINLAND'S PAIVIO HETEMAKI. INCREASINGLY FREQUENT RUMORS OF "PRESIDENTIAL" GOVERNMENT -- IN WHICH LEADING POLITICIANS WOULD SERVE AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT AND WITH PERMISSION OF THEIR PARTIES ALTHOUGH NOT AS PARTY REPRESENTATIVES -- ARE BASED ON SPECULATION THAT PRESIDENT MAY CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO HAVE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FIGURES ASSISTING HIM IN HOSTING POSSIBLE CSCE SUMMIT, SHOULD IT OCCUR BEFORE FINNISH ELECTIONS.
HOUSTON

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